



Introduction

On October 30, 1992, the President signed into law the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-575), which included Title XXXIV, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). The CVPIA amends previous authorizations of the California Central Valley Project (CVP) to include fish and wildlife protection, restoration, and mitigation as project purposes having equal priority with irrigation and domestic water supply uses, and fish and wildlife enhancement having an equal priority with power generation.

This document summarizes the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) which addresses the potential impacts of implementation of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. The PEIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for the Department of the Interior.

Central Valley Project Water Facilities

The CVP is one of the largest water storage and conveyance systems in the world. The project includes 20 dams and reservoirs capable of storing 11 million acre-feet of water, 11 power plants, 500 miles of major canals and aqueducts, three fish hatcheries, and various related facilities. The CVP conveys about 20 percent of the state's developed water from the Sacramento, Trinity, American, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin rivers to agricultural and municipal water users and wildlife refuges in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys and the San Francisco Bay Area.

The CVP operations affect the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. These operations must be coordinated with the State Water Project (SWP), which also conveys water through the Delta. The SWP conveys water from the Feather River to SWP agricultural and municipal water service contractors and water rights contractors in the Sacramento and San



Joaquin valleys, the San Francisco Bay Area, and the Central and Southern California Coastal areas.

The CVP and SWP are operated in accordance with their respective water rights permits and licenses administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Operation of the two projects is managed through the Coordinated Operating Agreement (COA). The CVP and SWP, under their water rights permits, are required to meet water quality standards and the needs of senior water rights holders. Under the existing Biological Opinions issued under authority of the Federal Endangered Species Act, the two projects must also operate in a manner that is not likely to jeopardize the endangered winter-run chinook salmon and threatened Delta smelt.